

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD
Kensington Park Hotel
450 Post Street
"Sherwood Room"
San Francisco, CA
April 15, 2004
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Bruce Gerratt, PhD, Chairperson
Alison Grimes, AuD
Marcia Raggio, PhD

Committee Members Absent

Vivian Shannon, MA

Board Members Present

James Till, PhD
Rebecca Binge, MA

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Candace Raney, Staff Analyst
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst
Bob Miller, Staff Counsel

Guests Present

Jim Cannon, SLP -Counseling Pacific
Medical Center,
Hannah Alexander, AU -Vertigo
Diagnostics
Dennis Van Vliet, AU

***2:30 p.m. – Continuing Professional Development Committee Meeting**

(Chair Gerratt, Grimes, Raggio, & Shannon)

I. Call to Order

Mr. Gerratt called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Continuing Professional Development Course Review

A. Consider Appeal Regarding the Denial for Continuing Professional Development Course Credit:

1. A Case Presentation: Aspiration Pneumonia and the Vest

Chairperson Gerratt introduced the courses agendized for review.

Ms. Grimes inquired about the meaning of the terminology “the Vest.”

Chairperson Gerratt indicated that he was not familiar with the terminology and stated that the reference is not one commonly used by speech-language pathologists.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the information available in the meeting packets for each of the courses was limited despite the numerous attempts by staff to obtain more information from both the provider, Sonoma Developmental Center, and from the subject licensee.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that at a previous CPD meeting, the Committee reviewed several other courses offered by the Sonoma Developmental Center and decided that those courses pertained generally to medical professionals and not specifically to licensed speech-language pathologists or audiologists. She explained that the licensee who submitted the appeal for review of the courses listed on the agenda was aware of the prior Committee decision and was cognizant that these courses target a similar audience of previously denied courses in that the courses are focused on medical diagnosis and treatment.

Ms. Raggio inquired about how the Sonoma Developmental Center came to be an approved provider of CPD.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the Sonoma Developmental Center is an approved continuing education provider through the California Medical Association’s Continuing Medical Education Program, and, as such is exempt from making application to the Board for approval.

Chairperson Gerratt reviewed the pertinent regulations regarding the criteria for CPD course content.

Dennis Van Vliet provided further information on the terminology of the “Vest” as an airway clearance system that it is a medical device used to clear excess mucus from the lungs of children and adults.

Chairperson Gerratt stated that speech-language pathologists are involved in assessing the risk for aspiration and providing rehabilitation to patients with swallowing difficulties to reduce the risk of aspiration, but added, once a patient has aspirated and has pneumonia, it’s a medical issue that requires intervention by another health care practitioner.

Mr. Till confirmed that speech-language pathologists are not involved in removing secretions from a patient's lung(s) and that it would be out of the practitioner's scope of practice to participate in that medical treatment.

Ms. Raggio stated that it is difficult to assess and approve the course with the limited information available in the meeting materials.

M/S/C: Grimes/Raggio

The Committee voted to uphold the denial of the course entitled "A Case Presentation: Aspiration Pneumonia and the Vest."

2. Update on Fragile X Syndrome

Chairperson Gerratt introduced the second course, "Update on Fragile X Syndrome," and reviewed the course objectives.

Ms. Bingea stated that she is aware that speech-language pathologists have a professional interest in information on Fragile X Syndrome and are involved with the treatment of Fragile X. However, the information available to the Committee does not address the direct correlation between the disease and appropriate intervention by a speech-language pathologist.

M/S/C: Grimes/Raggio

The Committee voted to uphold the denial of the course entitled "Update on Fragile X Syndrome."

3. Anger Management Strategies for Developmentally Disabled Clients and Staff

Chairperson Gerratt introduced the course "Anger Management Strategies for the Developmentally Disabled Clients and Staff," and stated the learning objectives as "increased knowledge and strategies for managing anger, and strategies for adapting anger management techniques for the developmentally disabled population."

Ms. Grimes stated that the course appears to be an interesting and valuable course to individuals working in a developmental center. However, she further stated that there is no information to support the contention that the course targeted speech-language pathologists in terms of outlining specific challenges speech-language pathologist may encounter while providing therapy to an emotionally disturbed patient.

M/S/C Raggio/Grimes

The Committee voted to uphold the denial of the course entitled "Anger Management Strategies for the Developmentally Disabled Clients and Staff."

B. Appeal of Committee's Denial of Course Entitled "Animal Assisted Therapy"

Chairperson Gerratt introduced the discussion item.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Committee had reviewed the course at two prior meetings and that at the January 2004 meeting, was advised by legal counsel that the Committee's denial of the course was a final ruling and that there was no legal obligation to review the course again. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that a letter reflecting the legal ruling was sent to the course provider, MEDS-PDN. She stated that the provider responded to the letter indicating that the Committee's decision was based on incomplete information and that a different conclusion may have been reached if all of the pertinent course information had been available at the time of the initial review. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that in light of the request for consideration of the additional course information, she believed it was a reasonable request and included the appeal on the agenda for Committee review.

The Committee reviewed the additional course information including recent publications related to animal assisted therapy.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she is aware that some professional organizations approve the course offering.

Ms. Bingea stated that she did not find compelling information in the materials to support that animal assisted therapy provides significant benefits to clients with speech and language disorders.

Ms. Grimes stated that the use of animals to ease the emotional stress of a patient and prepare them for therapy is a tool similar to that of toys or music. She further stated that she did not find evidence-based research in the materials to support that animal assisted therapy elicits better communication.

Mr. Miller stated that the Committee should be aware that, procedurally, it must entertain a request for review of an appeal of a course, or a denial of a provider, if the set of facts relied upon by the Committee when issuing a previous decision are in some way different. Further, there is no designated period of time that the provider must wait to resubmit a course for review.

M/S/C Grimes/ Raggio

The Committee voted to uphold its previous denial of the course "Animal Assisted Therapy."

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she wanted to share information with the Committee regarding other boards' continuing education programs wherein certain agencies, such as the Board of Pharmacy, award credit to it's licensees for attending Board meetings.

Mr. Miller stated that the Board should promulgate regulations to define this applicable continuing professional development offering, and ensure that it's in compliance with the existing definition of relevant course work.

Chairperson Gerratt requested that Ms. Del Mugnaio research the legal ramifications of awarding course credit to licensees for attending Board meetings.

There being no additional discussion, Chairperson Gerratt adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer